

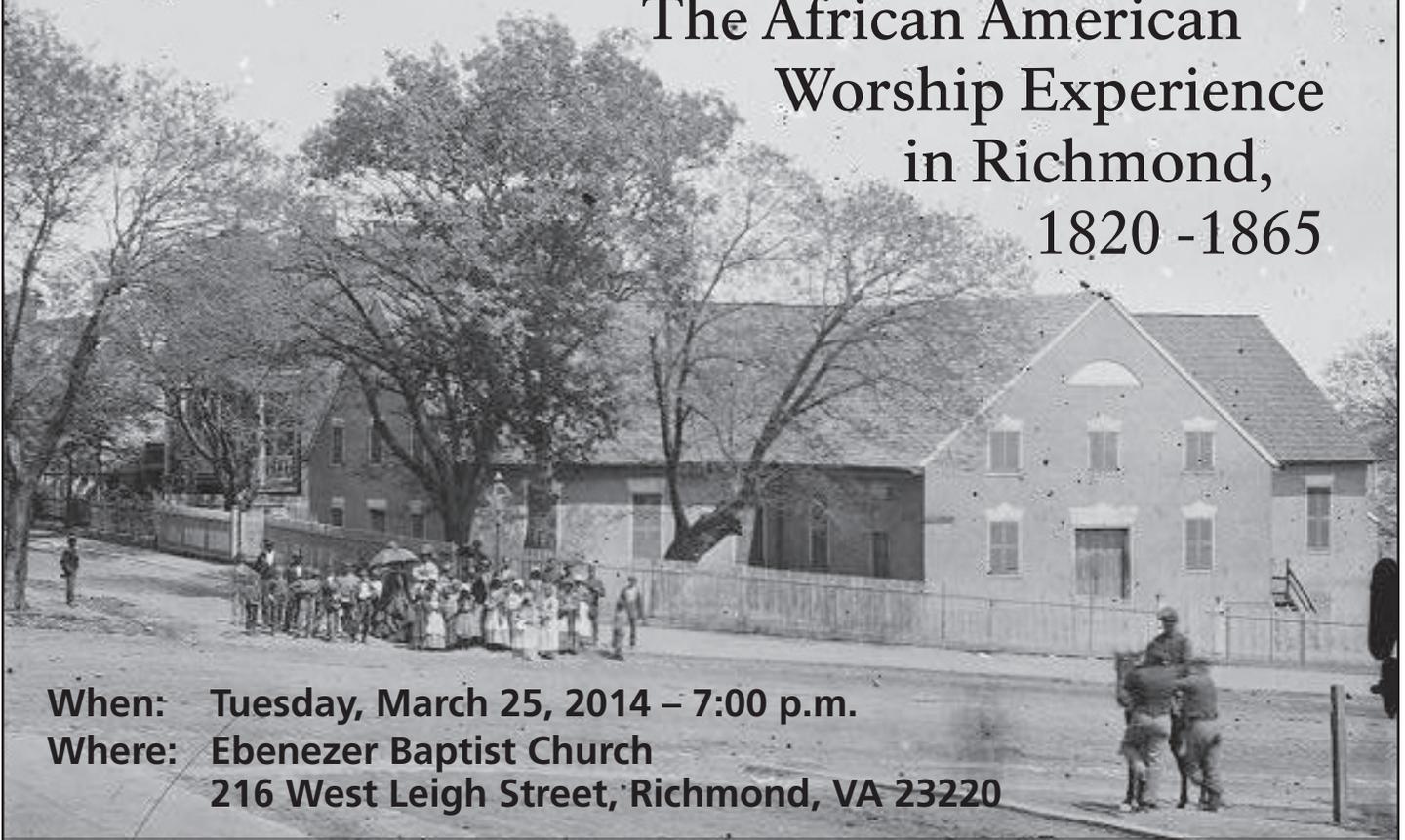
Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
Richmond National Battlefield Park
Virginia

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



“In My Father’s House”

The African American Worship Experience in Richmond, 1820 -1865



When: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Where: Ebenezer Baptist Church
216 West Leigh Street, Richmond, VA 23220

Explore the African American worship experience in Richmond in the decades leading up to and including the American Civil War. Through the use of rare photographs, extant church records and first-person narratives, this program will be an extraordinary journey back in time to examine the history of six African American churches founded in Richmond prior to the Civil War, and their significant contributions to the social, educational, and religious experiences of African Americans in the city.

The collaborative celebration will feature researcher and author Elvatrice Belsches conducting a multimedia presentation; the Ebenezer Combined Choirs & Friends rendering poignant selections of renowned African American spirituals; and remarks by Dr. Edward L. Ayers, historian & president of the University of Richmond, David Ruth, superintendent of Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, and The Rev. Dr. Levy M. Armwood, Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church. “In My Father’s House” will be presented at Ebenezer Baptist Church, which was established before the Civil War and is one of the oldest African American churches in Richmond. As a historic resource itself, the church will be a profound setting for this dramatic program.

This free program is sponsored by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, including Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site and Richmond National Battlefield Park, The Future of Richmond’s Past, and Ebenezer Baptist Church. Reservations are not required but seating is limited.

Pictured: First African Church, Richmond, 1865 (Library of Congress)

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